

ECON 8420: Group Presentations

Ian M. Schmutte

Spring 2020

Over the course of the semester, you will each give a formal presentation of a research paper on two occasions. On each occasion, you will pick one paper from the course syllabus (or a closely related paper) to present. Your goal is to teach the paper. Under ideal circumstances, your presentation will form the basis for lectures in future semesters of this class (and possibly classes you might one day teach).

While it is ultimately up to you to decide how to present—or teach—the paper, you should have the following parameters in mind:

- The full presentation, including discussion, will last about 45 minutes. Plan to present for about 30 minutes, allowing 15 minutes for questions and discussion.
- You should prepare slides or handouts to accompany the presentation. These should be prepared using L^AT_EX.
- In addition to the assigned paper, you should familiarize yourself with related papers in the literature. A good starting place is the paper's bibliography.

Discussants

When it is someone else's turn to present, I will expect all the other members of the class to prepare a few (3-4) slides or handouts. I may call on someone during class to begin the discussion after the presentation ends.

Key Dates

Since there are seven students, there will be four class sessions during which you may present. These are

- Feb 19
- Feb 26
- Apr 15

- Apr 22

You should send me the title of the paper you would like to present in the first group (Feb 19 and 26) by January 27. You should send me the title of the paper you would like to present in the second group (Apr 15 and 22) by March 23.

Assessment Rubric

I will assess your presentation out of 100 points: 75 for content and 25 for style. These areas are broken down further as follows:

Content

- **Depth:** The presentation clearly explains the significance of the paper in relation to existing literature as well as to any real-world economic and policy issues it addresses. In addition, the presentation highlights and discusses key methodological issues, highlights main results, and points out significant limitations or areas that remain unresolved.
- **Accuracy:** Information, including details of any background, data, policy, models, econometric issues are described without significant error.
- **Organization:** There is a clear and logical structure to the presentation. It is easy to follow along.

Style

- **Level:** The level of the material is appropriate. Not over our heads, but not too elementary.
- **Aids:** Slides or handouts enhance the presentation and are prepared in a professional manner.
- **Language and Style:** Your speech is clear and direct. Good pacing of the material. You are confident and comfortable with the material and any questions that arise.